

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015945

FOLLOWING REPEAT BERLIN 390 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO WARSAW  
BELGRADE BONN BUCHAREST BUDAPEST GENEVA MOSCOW PEKING PRAGUE SOFIA  
USBERLIN USUN NEW YORK USNATO JAN 18.  
QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 00390

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, ECON, EAID, GE

SUBJECT: INCREASING CEMA COUNTRY INVOLVEMENT IN GLOBAL  
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

REF:77STATE 289920 (NOTAL)

1. WE BELIEVE IT BOTH DESIRABLE AND FEASIBLE TO SEEK  
TO INDUCE GREATER AND MORE MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION ON  
THE PART OF CEMA COUNTRIES IN GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.  
BESIDES THE POSSIBILITY OF MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION BY  
THE INDUSTRIALIZED EAST TOWARD MEETING THE DEVELOPMENTAL  
AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OF THE THIRD AND FOURTH WORLDS,  
WE BELIEVE IT COULD, BY PROVIDING AN OBJECT FOR  
COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY, ALSO EXERT A BENEFICIAL EFFECT  
ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS. WE BELIEVE  
IT WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY THAT GREATER  
INVOLVEMENT OF CEMA IN NORTH-SOUTH PROBLEMS COULD  
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EVEN INDUCE A MARGINAL INTERNAL REALLOCATION OF  
RESOURCES AWAY FROM MILITARY AND SECURITY EXPENDITURE.

2. WE THINK, IN PARTICULAR, THAT THE GDR MIGHT BE  
POTENTIALLY MORE RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA OF PLAYING A  
CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE ON NORTH-SOUTH QUESTIONS THAN MIGHT  
BE WIDELY BELIEVED. THE GDR HAS TAKEN AN ACTIVIST  
STANCE ON RELATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,

AND HAS A CERTAIN QUANTITY OF POLITICAL CAPITAL ALREADY INVESTED IN CREATING AN IMAGE OF HUMANE AND COMPETENT INTEREST IN THE AFFAIRS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. GDR SPOKESMEN HAVE EXPRESSED TO US UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD, AND AT LEAST ONE HAS GONE SO FAR AS TO SAY THE GDR IS NOT NOW DOING ENOUGH.

3. A RESOURCE-POOR RAW MATERIALS IMPORTER, THE GDR HAS, IN ADDITION, A STRONG ECONOMIC INTEREST IN THE NATURE OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT IS HARDLY INDIFFERENT TO THE TERMS ON WHICH THE THIRD WORLD IS WILLING TO MAKE AVAILABLE RAW MATERIALS TO THE NORTH, AND HAS A NATURAL INTEREST IN STABLE, LONG-TERM SOURCES OF SUPPLY. WE BELIEVE THAT IN THIS RESPECT THE GDR LOOKS ON THE RAW MATERIALS SUPPLY ASPECTS OF NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS QUITE DIFFERENTLY FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

4. THERE ARE OF COURSE SIGNIFICANT LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GDR MIGHT COOPERATE IN NORTH-SOUTH AFFAIRS AS CONCEIVED BY THE INDUSTRIALIZED WEST. LIKE OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, THE GDR ADHERES TO A DIFFERENT CONCEPTION OF AN EQUITABLE WORLD ORDER FROM OUR OWN; AND IT HAS A STRONG POLITICAL NEED TO AVOID IDENTIFYING ITSELF WITH POSITIONS CONSIDERED CONSTRUCTIVE

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BY THE WEST. TO THE DEGREE, HOWEVER, THAT THE GDR'S REAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS DIVERGE FROM THOSE OF THE SOVIET UNION, AND WE FIND THE DEGREE OF DIVERGENCE NOT INCONSEQUENTIAL, TACIT AND SELECTIVE COOPERATION BY THE GDR ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES CANNOT BE RULED OUT.

5. LIKE MANY OF OUR COLLEAGUES ELSEWHERE IN COMMUNIST EUROPE, WE ARE ATTRACTED BY THE NOTION OF LETTING THE LDC'S TAKE THE LEAD, KEEPING IN MIND THAT THE GDR CONCEIVES OF ITSELF AS A COUNTRY WITH A PARTICULAR ROLE TO PLAY IN RESPECT TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND MAY BE MORE SENSITIVE THAN WE EXPECT TO THEIR VIEWS.

BOLEN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** EEW, ECON, EAID, GC, XH, XX, CEMA  
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**Review Markings:**  
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